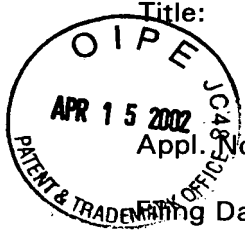


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Patrice DEBREGEAS *et al.*

RECEIVED
Bet
4-26-02



Title: DEVICE FOR COATING
GRANULES TO BE
ADMINISTERED ORALLY

APR 18 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Appl. No.: 09/582,871

Filing Date: 08/09/2000

Examiner: TRAN. S

Art Unit: 1615

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111 ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated October 15, 2001 and the Advisory Action of March 4, concerning U.S. Serial No. 09/582,871. It is believed that this communication fulfills the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.114(a) and (c) as a submission accompanying a request for continued examination (RCE). The appropriate fees for an RCE, under 37 C.F.R. 1.17 §(c), are also accompanying this paper.

Enclosed herewith is a Petition for a three-month extension of time to extend the time to respond to April 15, 2002. An extension fee for response within the first month was previously paid. Should such a request or fee be deficient or absent, please consider this paragraph such a request and authorization to charge the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 to 1.18 to Account No. 19-0741.